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USSR

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 ABOUT

"FRIEND's" SECRET-WRITING LETTER/REPORTS

ON A CONFERENCE IN GERMANY (1943)

From: STOCKHOLM

To: MOSCOW

No: 3299

9 Dec. 43

To VIKTOR[1].

On 8th December 1943 a [C] secret-writing] letter arrived from "FRIEND [KLEIST]"[ii] in which he stated that at WEINMAR [sic] a large conference took place, the chief purpose of which was to replace the Minister of Foreign Affairs PAPEN[iii] refused this post [1 group unrecovered] ill health. In [2 groups unrecovered] HIMMLER, BOR...

[27 groups unrecovered]

the attack on the USSR. KLEIST[iv] [B] insists on the necessity for a change in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, in particular, for the dismissal of Dr. [1 group unrecovered]. The generals, and first and foremost KEITEL, [B] insist on the necessity for [1 group unrecovered] KLEIST for the forthcoming peace talks. WEIZSACKER[v]

[29 groups unrecovered]

in WARTENBURG [6 groups unrecovered]

. Generals ZEITZLER[vi], GÖRING, MANSTEIN[vii]

[19 groups unrecovered]

No. 596

VALERIAN[viii]

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[Continued overleaf]

Comments: [i] VIKTOR : Lt. Gen. P. M. FITIN.

[ii] FRIEND : Unidentified cover-name. See also STOCKHOLM's No. 2978 of 12th November 1943 (3/NBP/T1644), No. 3004 of 14th November 1943 (3/NBP/T1665) and No. 3152 of 26th November 1943 (3/NBP/T1689).

[iii] PAPEN : Franz von PAPEN was German Ambassador in ANKARA from April 1939 until August 1944.

[iv] KLEIST : Probably refers to Dr. Bruno Peter KLEIST, a member of RIBBENTROP's personal staff and an expert on Russian affairs. He made several visits to STOCKHOLM and was involved in attempts to negotiate a peace between Germany and the Soviet Union. It seems unlikely that the reference is to the German general of this name who served on the Eastern Front and was appointed Commander of Army Group South.

[v] WEIZSÄCKER : Dr. Ernest Freiherr von WEIZSÄCKER became German Ambassador to the Vatican on 5th July 1943.

[vi] ZEITZLER : Gen. ZEITZLER, Chief of Staff of the German Army

[vii] MANSTEIN : Gen. MANSTEIN, Commander of Army Group South in April 1944, when he was replaced by Gen. KLEIST

[viii] VALERIAN : Vasilij Fedorovich RAZIN, 1st Secretary at the Soviet Legation in STOCKHOLM.